

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A service providing system having a ~~ticket examiner~~trade apparatus and an information processing apparatus interconnected through a network for providing a service in compensation for a price, wherein:

said ~~ticket examiner~~trade apparatus comprises:

communication means provided on a surface of said ~~ticket examiner~~trade apparatus and based on a non-contact or electromagnetic contact scheme, or conduction of an electric signal; and

means for collecting information on means for settling a service provided through any of said communication means from information stored in a medium communicated through said communication means,

said information processing apparatus comprises:

means connected to a financial institution through said network for decrypting said information on the settling means to a plain text, evaluating the validity of said information on the settling means, making a settlement based on said evaluation through said financial institution and said communication means, and selecting a service to be provided and preparing for providing the service after the settlement, and

said ~~ticket examiner~~trade apparatus further comprises:

person sensing means equipped therein; and

means for recognizing based on a person sensed by said person detecting means and the communication medium sensed by said communication means that a user who should receive a service exists at said ~~ticket-examiner~~trade apparatus.

6. (original) A service providing system according to claim 5, wherein said system comprises:

means for issuing a ticket in compensation for a service, or a ticket for certifying receipt of the service.

7. (currently amended)A service providing system according to claim 5, wherein said ~~ticket-examiner~~trade apparatus further comprises:

means for storing tickets to be issued;

shaping means;

printing means; and

optically or magnetically recording means.

8. (currently amended)A service providing system according to claim 5, wherein said non-contact communication means in said ~~ticket-examiner~~trade apparatus comprises two antennas, one of which forms a long distance service area, and the other of which forms a nearby service area.

9. (original) A service providing system according to claim 6, wherein said other antenna forming the nearby service area is disposed on a surface which a user approaches, and said nearby service area formed by the antenna for irradiating and receiving electric waves to and from the user extends over a range defined by a wave accessible distance and audible distance, said range having a radius equal to an average distance to a position at which the user is located.

10. (currently amended) A service providing system according to claim 6, wherein said ~~ticket examiner~~⁹trade apparatus comprises a gate, such that at least one of an entrance way and an exit way for the user is blocked by said gate when the information on the settling means of the user is unauthorized.

11. (original) A service providing system according to claim 5, wherein said information processing apparatus comprises means for encrypting contents communicated by said communication means for transmission, and for decrypting received contents to a plain text.

Claims 12 and 13 (canceled)